

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to improve their English grammar. The amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into a substitute specification and abstract. Attached are two versions of the substitute specification and abstract, a marked-up version showing the revisions, as well as a clean version. No new matter has been added.

A proposed drawing amendment is submitted herewith under a separate cover letter. Specifically, Figure 2 has been amended to add reference number 2.7 to identify "Right Exercise." This drawing amendment is editorial in nature and does not add new matter to the application.

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and replaced by new claims 9-16. Further, new claims 9-16 have been drafted to clarify features of the invention recited therein and to further distinguish the present invention from the reference relied upon in the rejections discussed below.

Claim 1 was objected to for not spelling out the term "DII." New claims 9-16 have been drafted to address the problem identified by the Examiner. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Specifically, the rejection states that the claims are generally narrative and indefinite and fail to conform with current U.S. practice. New claims 9-16 have been drafted specifically to avoid the problems identified by the Examiner and to otherwise comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Rambhia (U.S. 2002/0156712). Further, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rambhia. These rejections are believed clearly inapplicable to new claims 9-16 for the following reasons.

New independent claims 9 recites a method of protecting digital content including, in part, parsing a digital item declaration (DID) related to digital content of a MPEG-21 scope, the DID carrying (i) a rights and protection holder containing rights and protection information applied to the digital content with a corresponding content identifier, and (ii) an intellectual property management and protection (IPMP) control graph holder or a right expression language (REL)-IPMP control graph holder. Further, claim 9 recites detecting the IPMP control graph holder or the REL-IPMP control graph holder from the DID parsed by the parsing of the DID. The Rambhia reference fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned distinguishing features recited in independent claim 9.

Rather, Rambhia merely teaches receiving and interpreting incoming IPMP information (see paragraphs [0039] and [0040]; and figure 4).

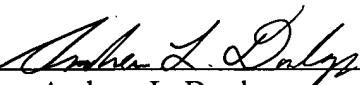
Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that Rambhia teaches receiving/interpreting IPMP information, but fails to disclose or suggest parsing a digital item declaration (DID) related to digital content of a MPEG-21 scope, as required by claim 9. In addition, Rambhia fails to disclose or suggest that the DID includes a rights and protection holder as well as an IPMP control graph holder, as recited in claim 9. Therefore, because of the above-mentioned distinctions it is believed clear that independent claim 9 and claims 10-16 which depend therefrom are not anticipated by Rambhia.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Rambhia or elsewhere in the prior art of record which would have caused a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Rambhia to obtain the invention of independent claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 9 and claims 10-16 which depend therefrom are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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